

REMARKS**The Claim Amendments**

Claims 1, 7-11, 13-15 and 26 were pending in the present application.

Applicants have added claims 34-80 to claim more completely the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Support for new claims 34-80 can be found in original claims 1-33 and throughout the specification, for example at page 9, lines 22-26; page 10, lines 11-12 and page 24, lines 7-11. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of the instant amendments, claims 1, 7-11, 13-15, 26 and 34-80 will be pending in this application.

Double Patenting Rejection of Claims 1, 7-11, 13-15 and 26

Claims 1, 7-11, 13-15 and 26 have been rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of United States Patent No. 6,468,967.

In response to this ground of rejection, Applicants have filed a Terminal Disclaimer concurrently herewith. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 7-11, 13-15 and 26 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

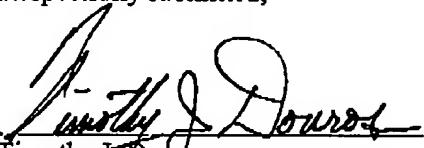
CONCLUSION

For the reasons presented above, Applicants respectfully request prompt allowance of all pending claims.

Applicants have filed concurrently herewith a Petition for a one-month extension of time for replying to the Office Action and have paid the required fee under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136(a) and 1.17(a)(1). With the extension, the time for replying is extended up to and including February 3, 2004. Accordingly, this Amendment is timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 3, 2004
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